

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 106

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 173

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 106—Relative to the Honorable Frank K. Richardson.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 15, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 106, Schiff. The Honorable Frank K. Richardson.

This measure would commemorate the public service of former Justice Frank K. Richardson.

WHEREAS, The Honorable Frank K. Richardson, Retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California, has brought credit and distinction to himself through his illustrious record of public service, and it is appropriate at this time to commemorate the valuable leadership and dedicated service he has provided to his community and the people of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Justice Frank Richardson was born in St. Helena, Napa County, California, and lived in various locations in Northern California, one of which was Sacramento, where he attended Marshall School; and

WHEREAS, After he completed his freshman year in high school in San Jose, the Richardson family moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Frank attended Germantown High School; and

WHEREAS, Frank attended the University of Pennsylvania for his freshman year of college but then transferred to Stanford University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree "With Distinction" in political science in 1935 and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, and graduated from Stanford Law School with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1938; and

WHEREAS, Frank became a member of the California State Bar in 1938, upon passing the bar exam, and began practicing law in Oroville in the law offices of retired Judge Hiram Walker and, while practicing law, Frank immersed himself in the civic life of Oroville by serving as President of the Oroville Rotary Club, as a member of the Methodist Church, and as a Republican candidate for the State Assembly; and

WHEREAS, While residing in Oroville, Frank met Betty Kingdon, whom he later married in 1943, and this year they celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on January 23, 1998, and the Richardsons' household has grown to include four sons and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, Frank served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army (Intelligence), participated in

the European Theatre of Operations, and received two Battle Stars for his valor; and

WHEREAS, After the war, Frank and Betty Richardson decided to move to Sacramento, a place they both love and which has been their home for the last forty-three years; and

WHEREAS, From 1946 to 1971, Frank practiced law, first as an associate to Sumner Mering, then by himself as a sole practitioner for twenty-three years, and also, during this time, taught law classes at night in Evidence and Torts at McGeorge School of Law; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, then-Governor Ronald Reagan appointed Frank Richardson as Presiding Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal in Sacramento; in 1974, Governor Reagan elevated Justice Richardson to the California Supreme Court, where he served for nine years as an Associate Justice, and, in December 1983, Justice Richardson retired from the California Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Six months after his retirement from the California Supreme Court, and after a semester of teaching at Pepperdine University School of Law as its Distinguished Visiting Scholar, President Ronald Reagan appointed Justice Richardson as Solicitor to the United States Department of the Interior and, in that capacity, Frank supervised the work of the legal staff of the Department of the Interior throughout the United States until his retirement from that position in July 1985; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his skills as a lawyer and judge, and for his service to his community, state, and to the legal profession, Justice Frank Richardson has received honorary doctorates in law from Pepperdine University School of Law, Mid-Valley College of Law in Los Angeles, Western State University School of Law in San Diego, and the University of Southern California School of Law, which also made him an Honorary Member of its Order of the Coif Society; and

WHEREAS, Justice Richardson served as a member of the Board of Visitors of Stanford Law School, McGeorge School of Law, Pepperdine University School of Law, Brigham Young University School of Law, and Whittier College of Law, and he was a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the Pacific and the Editorial Board for the University of San Francisco Law Review; and

WHEREAS, In the years following his retirement from the California Supreme Court, Justice Richardson has served as Chairman of the Select Committee on Internal Procedures of the Supreme Court of California, as a member of both the Advisory Board of the National Institute of Justice and the California Commission on Campaign Financing, and as a member of the Board of Directors of FEDCO and the Board of Governors of the President Ronald Reagan Foundation; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Justice Richardson was elected a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an honorary organization of attorneys,



judges, and law teachers whose professional, public, and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, Frank was active in numerous state and local bar activities, including his leadership as President of the Sacramento County Bar Association, as a member of the Executive Committee of the State Bar, the Conference of Delegates, the Committee for the Administration of Justice, and the Committee of Bar Examiners, as Counsel to the California Commission on Uniform State Laws, and as a Fellow of the American College of Probate Counsel; and

WHEREAS, His attention extended beyond his professional interests to the local community, where he distinguished himself as President of the Sacramento World Affairs Council, the Sacramento Community Welfare Council, the Sacramento YMCA, and the Sacramento Lions Club, as an active community member in the United Crusade and KVIE-Channel 6, Sacramento's public television station, and as the founder and first President and member of the Board of Directors of the Methodist Hospital of Sacramento; and

WHEREAS, Frank Richardson served on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts of America, the Goodwill Industries of Northern California, and the Sacramento State College Association, and years later, after his retirement from the court, he served as Chairman of Sacramento's Bicentennial Commission; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Members take great pleasure in commending the Honorable Frank K. Richardson, Retired Justice of the Supreme Court of California, for his outstanding record of judicial leadership, his long and distinguished record of public service, and his outstanding display of civic leadership, and that they convey to him best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

